



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mrs. Anne S. Hill  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

(Rita Hall joined the meeting.)

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Barbara Bigby  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl Moore

##### **Excused Absence**

Anne S. Hill

##### **Guest**

Barbara Butler, Department of Children & Family Services  
Dorothy Channel, DCFS  
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department  
Sergeant Peter Hahn, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department  
Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing

Monette McCullough, Department of Public Health  
Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD  
Sergeant Dan Scott, LASD  
Connie Steward, CCL  
Michael Varela, Probation Department  
Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller

Staff

Lee Millen  
Nyla Jefferson

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Chairperson Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and a self-introduction followed.

**Internal Services Department**

Michael Henderson, Division Manager, Maintenance & Operation, reported that the Department's fiscal year report shows approximately 17,000 phone calls were received with a 90% successful response rate. Within two hours emergency phone calls are handled with a 92% success rate, and within four hours the discomfort calls are handled (too hot or cold) with a 92.8% success rate. Also, the routine calls (lights out, etc) are to be addressed within three (3) days and the success rate is 97% which meets the performance measures standards.

**Mental Health Department**

No representative in attendance.

**Sheriff's Department**

Commander Margaret Ruiz distributed the Inmate Assaults on Staff Report and noted that there were no numbers reported of inmates assaulted by sworn officers and assaults against staff are down from 18 to 15.

Sergeant Hahn, Special Business Bureau, reported that since 1992, a shared information database was established that indicates the investigation and the needs and services provided to individuals by one, some or all of the following departments: DCFS, Mental Health, Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Probation, Health Services and a few others. This database is a useful tool for investigations and is used to provide services for the child and the family; DCFS' employees receive database training and the E-Scar System shares information as well.

Sergeant Scott, Special Business Bureau, reported that in 2000, a DCFS Academy was hosted by law enforcement that trained 850 social workers in collaborative investigations. This led to a two hour core academy which teaches social workers about law enforcement issues and how to work more collaboratively with LASD to address concerns. As of last week, a meeting was held with DCFS to discuss resurrecting the DCFS Academy or

something similar. Also, in January 2009, the electronic E-Scars System was established so that once the information is inputted it automatically notifies the appropriate Sheriff's Investigative Unit of suspected child abuse and it dispatches pertinent data. E-Scar can be updated by the Sheriff's investigator and the social worker, and it is archived. Further, other law enforcement agencies are coming on board and there are over 2,000,000 current entries.

Commissioner Moore requested the ethnic breakdown in total numbers for each jail facility. Commissioner Hammargren asked for information regarding new custody facilities. Commissioner Hall requested information concerning Kenyon Juvenile Hall, and Long Beach Courthouse.

Commander Ruiz will provide a time-line on when the new county jail will be built which will be on the property behind the old central jail. Also, preliminary discussion regarding the Sybil Brand Jail has been on building a new facility or renovating the existing facility.

Commissioners expressed an interest in touring the new Lennox Sheriff's Station that will be open in April 2010.

### **Probation Department**

Michael Varela, Probation Department, will provide the Commission a copy of the employment vacancy announcement for a food consultant.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Placement Permanency and Quality Assurance, noted that staff are working with public health nurses to address obesity and are identifying children in Group Homes that also have medical issues in order to consult with their care provider on how to address both issues.

Evidence Based Practices are practices that have data that supports its success for at least 30 years or more. Other County Departments are considering implementing various EBP, however, these are expensive to implement. An example is an Interventionist Therapist that is in the home of the family everyday for four to six months modeling for the parent, training, teaching and working with the parent to address issues with the youth. He/She becomes essentially a part of the home and soon after the start of the program a baseline for success or lack thereof is identified. The Probation Department's EBP are Functional Family Therapy (works with whole family) and Multi Systemic Therapy (works directly with the parents).

The Probation Department's Permanency Committee was the first in the nation in 2006 to have a probation youth adopted. There are two more adoptions pending and five are under legal guardianship.

### **Community Care Licensing**

Alan Henry, CCL, announced that effective October 1, 2009, 5 Acres - East Mountain Group Home, 1885 East Mountain Street, Pasadena, CA 91104, was closed. Also,

Positive Path Youth Development Center is now licensed at 24825 Neptune Avenue, Carson 90745, as of October 14, 2009.

### **Department of Children and Family Services**

Barbara Butler, Group Home Manager, provided a breakdown of statistics: Physical Abuse cases 11: 1 evaluated out (no open investigation) and 10 pending; Sexual Abuse cases 3: 1 inconclusive, 1 evaluated out and 1 pending; Runaways is 235, and General Neglected Referrals 9: 1 unfounded, 1 evaluated out, and 7 pending.

Dorothy Channel, Out-of-Home Care Management, reported that November is National Adoption Month. There were three teens that were featured on Fox 11 News Wednesday's Child. They were not adopted but have been presented awards by the Board of Supervisors for publicizing the importance of adoption. Also, there have not been any incidences of H1N1 found in Group Homes but staff has received calls asking for scheduled vaccination sites.

The Probation Department's camps and group homes are working to prevent the spread of the flu, and Group Home staff are working to obtain immunizations for their kids.

### **Auditor Controller's Office**

Cassandra Youngblood, Foster Youth Ombudsman, has visited 8 Group Homes and received 13 calls from the hotline. The calls include staff not providing doctor visits although some kids show signs of having the flu. For example, a young mother with a baby that had a high temperature was not taken to the doctor although she had requested it. Also, minors are complaining of not having enough clothes for daily use and proper footwear to play sports. A few of the complaints are referred to the CCL and the hotline. However, many of the children are reluctant to talk about their problems for fear of being moved.

Commissioner Bigby commended Ms. Youngblood for taking the initiative to make the phone calls to CCL.

### **H1N1**

Monette McCullough, Department of Public Health, reported that DPH has been hosting meetings for providers to give them referrals on vaccine immunizations. The Group Homes are having difficulty locating free immunization sites, although the Public Health Department provides free vaccines for use to physicians upon request. However, at times the primary physicians are unwilling to administer the vaccination.

### **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Vice Chairperson Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2009 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 1, **ATTENDANCE**, to reflect Commissioner Hall as Excused Absence.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was none

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 651.93.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS**

There was none

### **DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the same menu was selected as last year from La Imperial Restaurant. The caterer will call in about two weeks with the final billing due.

### **SBC 2010 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Following discussion, the Commission mentioned the subsequent points to address following the December 16, 2009 Business Meeting presentations:

- Discussion on group home closures to differentiate the Commission's role and how to proceed;
- Consider making site visits one week and meeting the alternate week;
- Consider making more visits in the outlining areas of the County that have been neglected;
- Reevaluate the Scholarship Program;
- Schedule a visit at the new Men's Central Jail;
- Review the list of closed Group Homes;
- Maintain a record of visits for reference;
- Create a procedure for inspections: interval between visits; time of day to visit; and develop criteria for early visits;
- Network with DCFS, Auditor-Controller, and Probation departments to offer the Commission's collaboration in reporting facility/group home concerns; and
- Review and update the Inspection Reports (clothing inventory, monthly activities, etc.).

Commissioners Moore and Hammargren suggested that Commissioners provide any additional ideas in writing to discuss at the upcoming Strategic Plan meeting.

Cassandra Youngblood plans to visit Group Homes unannounced and reported her concerns of Mozell Pennington Boys Center in Compton.

**FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM NOVEMBER 5, 2009  
TO NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

**Los Angeles Youth Network (Taft House) – 28, #3 –Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on November 5, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Residence is run down, need of many repairs. Staff advised that major renovation is to be conducted by volunteers in February. A follow-up inspection is planned in April 2010.

**Dubnoff Center – 15, #4 –Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on November 5, 2009, but unable to inspect; no one was home.

**Teen's Happy Home – 28, #3 (Corporate) – Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Moore** The facility was visited on November 5, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Heritage Group Home #4 – 23, #3 – Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on November 10, 2009, but unable to inspect; no one was home.

**Pinnacle Foundation – 35, #4 – Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on November 10, 2009, but unable to inspect; no one was home.

**Washington Hancock Home for Girls – 48, #4 – Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on November 12, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Fire Extinguishers need updating, and smoke detector needs batteries.

**South Bay Bright Future Youth Center #1 – 43, #4 – Chairperson Montaña** The facility was visited on November 11, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Hillsides Home for Children – 24, #4 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on November 12, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Bourne Inc. – 3, #1 –Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on November 13, 2009, and found to be in unsatisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Needs new stove top; 2<sup>nd</sup> bedroom needs new mattress and new dresser drawers; and 3<sup>rd</sup> bedroom needs new carpet and new dresser drawers. Bathroom #2 needs new shower, sink, toilet and leak repaired behind toilet (redo bathroom). 1<sup>st</sup> bedroom needs dresser drawers and curtains. 1<sup>st</sup> bathroom needs shower replaced, sink cleaned, carpet installed in closet, and hand rail replaced on outside steps. A follow-up inspection is planned on January 7, 2010.

**Los Angeles Youth Network (Beachwood) – 28, #4 – Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on November 16, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Heritage Group Home #1 – 24, #2 –Commissioner Bigby** The facility was visited on November 17, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**San Gabriel Children Center – 42, #3 – Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on November 17, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

### **COMMISSION MEETING CANCELLATIONS**

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the Sybil Brand Commission determined that there was a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the Agenda being posted, as required per Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2).

The Commission Meeting Cancellations was added to the Agenda.

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, it was agreed to schedule inspections in lieu of the following Commission meetings that are cancelled due to forthcoming national holidays:

- November 25, 2009
- December 23, 2009
- December 30, 2009

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was none.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda.)**

There was none.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.